Quality control of L.P.G. cylinders

1371. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of LPG cylinder-burst which occurred in Delhi and U. P. during the last two years, in households;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to upgrade the quality-control of LPG cylinders;

(c) the number of manufacturers held responsible for the loss due to LPG cylinder-bursts; and

(d) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a), (c) and (d) According to Oil Companies, no case of LPG cylinder burst has been reported in Delhi and U. P. in the last two years.

(b) LPG cylinders are manufactured by approved manufacturers, in accordance with the specifications formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards. Further, an Industry Technical Audit Team makes surprise inspections of the manufacturing/testing process.

Issuance of letters of intent

1372. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3650 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th March, 1992 and state:

(a) what are the details of cases which have been cleared after the review; and

(b) by when the Indian Oil Corporation is likely to complete the formalities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Three retail outlet cases have been cleared as per details given below:—

Name	Location
1. Shri Ashwin Kumar Chaturvedi	Ratanlal Nagar, Kanpur.
2. Shri Durg Vijay Pandey	Kharihanimorh Mahanagar, Azamgarh.
3. Shri Rajendra Prasad Shukla	Lambhua Bazar, Sultanpur.

(b) These three retail outlets are likely to be commissioned by December, 1992.

पेट्रोल और रसोई गैस की डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप का आवंटन

1373. **श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया :** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पेट्रोल और रसोई गैस की डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप का आवंटन पैतृक व्यवसाय के आधार पर किया जाता है ; यदि नहीं, तो क्या इसके लिए कोई प्रक्रिया निर्धारित की गई है ;

(ख) निर्धारित समयावधि की समाप्ति पर नये वितरक की नियुक्ति न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के वितरकों द्वारा बरती गई नियमितताओं की जांच पड़ताल शासकीय स्तर पर किन अधिकारियों द्वारा की जाती है और जांच के लिए क्या प्रक्रिया विहित की गई है ;

(घ) शिकायत किये जाने पर 31 मार्च, 1992 तक पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के कितने और किन-किन वितरकों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की गई है ; और

(ङ) क्या मंत्रालय द्वारा वितरकों की गोपनीय रिपोर्ट रखी जाती है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) मौजूदा डीलरशिप/ डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के समाप्त होने पर नए डीलर की नियुक्ति की जाती है।

(ग) विपणन अनुशासन दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार ऐसा अधिकारी अनियमितताओं की जांच कर सकता है जो तेल उद्योग में बिक्री अधिकारी के रैंक से तथा राज्य सरकार के खाद्य एवं सिविल आपूर्ति विभाग में निरीक्षक के रैंक से नीचे का न हो।

(घ) बुंदरा बिक्री केंद्र के 895 मामले तथा एल०पी०जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के 298 मामले।

(ङ) जी, नहीं।

Setting up of oil refineries

1374. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised the hydrocarbon sector and have decided in principle to allow private and foreign investments in setting-up of refineries, development of discovered oil fields and exploration of oil blocks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of setting-up of oil refinery and oil exploration programmes in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from the Fourth Round of bidding under which negotiations are being held with bidders to finalise contracts, Government have decided to offer exploration acreage to private companies on a continuous round-the-year basis. A decision has also been taken to develop certain medium sized discovered oilfields in joint venture with private companies and to offer certain small sized oil gas fields to private companies for development on a production sharing basis. A decision has also been taken to set up refineries in joint venture with private companies.

(c) Two blocks in the Orissa onshore were offered in the Fourth Round of bidding but no offers were received for these blocks. A site selection Committee has been constituted to identify suitable location for 6 million tonnes proposed grassroot refinery to be set up in Eastern India during Eighth/Ninth Plan Period.

NRI investment for oil refineries

1375. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed/agreed in principle to allow NRI investment/participation for oil refinery projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have approved setting up of three new grassroot refineries, each with a capacity of 6 MMTPA as 8th Plan projects as Joint Ventures with suitable private parties in India or abroad. Proposals from private sector companies who can bring in technology and investment in the area also considered.

Supply of Gas to Tata Electric Company

1376. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which published in the Financial Express of 3rd July, 1992 under the caption "ONGC cuts supply to Tata Electric";

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the cut in gas supply to the TEC has resulted in cut in electricity supply in Bombay and other areas causing great inconvenience to public;